

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/611,327

Examiner

Bernard E. Souw

Applicant(s)

DARLING ET AL.

Art Unit

2881

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to AF Arguments 12/07/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31 and 40-45.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***After Final Arguments***

1. Applicant's After-Final Response filed 12/07/2005 has been entered. The present Office Action is made with all the arguments being fully considered.

No claim has been cancelled or added.

Claims 1-31 and 40-45 remain pending in this office action.

### **ALLOWANCE**

2. Claims 1-31 and 40-45 are allowed.

The claims are subsequently renumbered to claims 1-37.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

A charged particle detection system, or charged particle analyzer, or charged particle separator, comprising an electronic multiplexing unit, a plurality of charge-collecting zones for receiving and storing charge, wherein each charge-collecting zone is isolated and electrostatically shielded from neighboring charge-collecting zones by a separator comprising an insulated electrical conductor held at a reference potential, wherein each charge-collecting zone is electronically interfaced to the multiplexing unit, and wherein the multiplexing unit is interfaced to a means for measuring the charge

collected by the charge-collecting zones, as recited in claims 1 and 40, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by any prior art.

Claims 2-31 and 41-45 are also allowed because of its/their dependencies, either directly or indirectly, upon claim 1 or 40.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Relevant Prior Art***

5. This prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

(a) USPAT 6,180,942 issued to Tracy et al. discloses charged particle detection system equipped with multiplexing unit and interface to a charge-measuring unit similar to the present invention. However, Tracy's system charge-collecting zone is not electrostatically shielded from neighboring charge-collecting zones by insulated electrical conductor.

(b) USPAT 6,979,818, USPGPUB 2005/0017166, USPGPUB 2004/0222374, USPGPUB 2006/0011826 and USPGPUB 2006/0011829, all issued to Scheidemann et al., discloses charged particle detection system similar to the present invention.

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However, none of the Scheidemann references qualifies as prior art, since their priority dates ranging from 2003 to 2004 are predated by the present priority date (1999).

### ***Communications***


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard E Souw whose telephone number is 571 272 2482. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R Lee can be reached on 571 272 2477. The central fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571 273 8300 for regular communications as well as for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571 272 5993.

bes

January 23, 2006

  
**JOHN R. LEE**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**